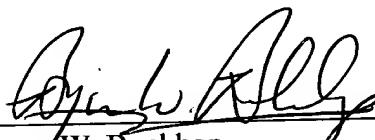


bearing on the substantive patentability of the Application. Therefore, it is understood that this Amendment has no restrictive effect with respect to application of the doctrine of equivalents under the Federal Circuit's decision in *Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., Ltd.*, 234 F.3d 558 (Fed. Cir. 2000) and its related progeny. Examination and consideration of the Application, as amended, is hereby requested.

No addition fees are believed due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, including any necessary extensions of time, which are hereby requested, to Deposit Account No. 501403.

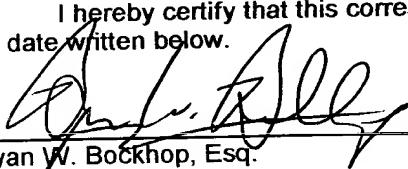
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\_\_\_\_\_  
Bryan W. Bockhop  
Registration No. 39,613

BOCKHOP & REICH, LLP  
3235 Satellite Boulevard  
Bldg. 400 - Suite 300  
Duluth, Georgia 30096

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being placed in the U.S. Mail on the date written below.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bryan W. Bockhop, Esq.

1/31/01  
Date